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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

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East Germany

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DATE DISTR. 21 July 1954

SUBJECT

Status of Livestock Diseases and Disease  
Control Capabilities

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7

PLACE

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NO. OF ENCLS.

ACQUIRED

SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.DATE OF  
INFO.

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SOURCE

HOG CHOLERA

1.

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the ultimate aim in the fight against hog cholera must be eradication of the disease. A 1940 Ordinance had required the slaughter of all swine on infected farms. After implementation of this order, the incidence of hog cholera had decreased year by year. During 1950 a total of 654 hogs were lost due to hog cholera and the total for the first two quarters of 1951 was 294 hogs. In 1951 changed conditions, especially lack of fodder base, lowered the general resistance of swine in the DDR and caused them to become more susceptible to infectious diseases. Beginning with the third quarter of 1951, the incidence of hog cholera increased and 518 swine were lost as a result of the disease. During the subsequent three quarters the losses from hog cholera continued to rise as follows:

Fourth quarter, 1951: 2,106 swine  
First quarter, 1952: 2,478 swine  
Second quarter, 1952: 2,487 swine

During the third quarter of 1952, large numbers of hogs were moved from Thuringia in spite of warnings that this would favor the spread of hog cholera. The losses from hog cholera for subsequent quarters were:

Third quarter, 1952: 3,198 swine  
Fourth quarter, 1952: 7,196 swine  
First quarter, 1953: 23,111 swine  
Second quarter, 1953: 16,044 swine

An ordinance, dated 11 June 1953, provided for the use of hog cholera crystal violet vaccine on swine in State-owned feed lots.

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in the DDR for the third quarter of 1953. During this quarter hog cholera was reported on 1,273 farms. This was 0.14 percent of all farms which kept animals

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in the DDR. A separate statistical report on livestock losses during the third quarter of 1953 (Attachment A) showed that during that period 4,337 swine were affected and 40,337 were emergency-slaughtered because of hog cholera on the farms. This letter further stated that hog cholera occurred more frequently and losses were especially high in feeding farms of the VEB<sup>3</sup>. Affected swine were slaughtered but the following routine measures were put into effect to minimize economic losses:

- a. All hogs shipped via the Peoples Owned Trading Office for purposes of breeding and feeding were to be inoculated with hyperimmune serum before shipment, regardless of type of transport used, except for those being shipped out of the area.
- b. Hogs in State-owned feeding farms, VEB and LPG<sup>4</sup> were to be inoculated with crystal violet vaccine three weeks before being administered hyperimmune serum for protection during transport. Fourteen days after inoculation with crystal violet vaccine they could be moved into the feeding farms.
- c. At the time of shipment to feeding farms, all runts were to be culled out. This was the responsibility of the transport veterinarians and the feeding farm veterinarians.

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[redacted] at a meeting of district veterinarians, on 10 November 1953, hog cholera was the most important subject of discussion because of the increase in incidence of the disease. The emergency slaughter of swine before peak weight had caused a loss of 50 to 60 kilograms of meat per animal. Therefore, in October 1953, about 1,562 tons of pork were lost. The conclusions of the meeting were as follows:

- a. The mass shipment of swine within the DDR had caused the spread of hog cholera over the entire DDR.
- b. Districts which imported swine must no longer export them and districts which exported swine must not import them.
- c. The trade control offices for feeding and breeding in import districts must submit to the Council of Export Districts a justification for an import license showing that a shortage of swine existed in the import district.
- d. "Piglet furnishing establishments" should be established in the vicinity of feeding and breeding farms to reduce shipments of swine.
- e. Imported pork should be canned or processed before distribution. Imported pork would be permitted to go into big cities to be used in "large kitchens."

Hunting regulations were being revised to control the wild boars which acted as a reservoir of the disease. The losses from hog cholera were increasing on the VEB Master, VEB and LPG. In October 1953, 1,534 swine were affected and 24,092 had to be emergency-slaughtered. Attachments B and C show the losses of swine from hog cholera for the periods of 23 November to 4 December 1953 and of 11 December to 17 December 1953. In the former period a total of 567 hogs were affected and 8,092 were killed. During the latter period 322 hogs were affected and 4,816 were killed.

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4.

[redacted]  
For 1954. The Impfstoffwerk Rottensau would produce 15,000 liters of hog cholera crystal violet vaccine, an amount sufficient to immunize 1.5 million hogs. According to the plan of the Peoples Owned Enterprise, 1.13 million swine were to be vaccinated with crystal violet in 1954. Therefore, a reserve of 3,200 liters

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would remain which could be applied to 1955. The Rottenau plant was scheduled to produce 20,000 liters of hog cholera hyperimmune serum. This would be sufficient to inoculate the swine which were to be transported, especially since the mass shipment of swine would be restricted.

#### SWINE ERYSIPELAS

5. Attachment A shows that during the third quarter of 1953 a total of 5,935 swine were affected and 3,640 were emergency-slaughtered because of swine erysipelas. 25X1

6. [redacted] the incidence of the disease had increased. Immunization, which was on a voluntary basis, and therapeutic inoculations were used to combat the disease. Swine erysipelas serum was not always available in necessary quantities because of the requisition of the Rottenau plant and its transformation into a unit for the production of hog cholera biologicals. The shortage had been alleviated to some extent by imports of serum from Poland. 25X1

7. [redacted] the long, mild autumn favored the appearance of "many cases" of swine erysipelas. The combined use of hyperimmune serum and penicillin had been found to be the best therapeutic measure. At that time the temporary lack of serum still existed but was being alleviated by increased imports. 25X1

8. In 1954 the swine of the Peoples-Owned Sectors (VEB Mast, VEB and LPG) were to be immunized with swine erysipelas adsorbate vaccine. The annual production of the VEB Serumwerk Dessau was to be 23,000 liters in 1954. Arzneimittelwerk Dresden would produce 7,200 liters. This total of 30,200 liters would be sufficient to immunize 3.5 million swine. About 3 million swine of the Peoples-Owned Sector would be vaccinated. Sufficient vaccine would be left for the vaccination of 0.5 million swine on private farms.

9. In 1954 three plants were to produce a total of 14,200 liters of swine erysipelas serum (equine origin). The Arzneimittelwerk Dresden would produce 7,200 liters; the Tiergesundheitsamt Jena, 4,500 liters; and the Tiergesundheitsamt Rostock, 2,500 liters. The total of 14,200 liters would be sufficient for preventive and therapeutic use on 1.7 million swine. Approximately 3 million swine were to be inoculated during the year and approximately 11,000 liters of serum would be imported for the remaining 1.3 million swine. The VEB Serumwerk Dessau would produce 8,000 liters of serum (porcine origin) to be used exclusively for therapeutic purposes. This would be sufficient to treat 160,000 hogs.

#### HOOF AND MOUTH DISEASE

10. During the third quarter of 1953, 22 cases of hoof and mouth disease were reported in the DDR, 15 of which were bovines, 5 swine and 2 sheep (see Attachment A). Dr. Thamm's memorandum of 27 November 1953 (see para. 3) stated that the number of cases had increased to a small extent in October 1953. On 15 October 1953 the disease was reported in 7 districts, 10 Kreisgen, 40 communities and on 221 farms. On 31 October it was reported in 9 districts, 21 Kreisgen, 79 communities and on 376 farms. In the Dresden district the virus was identified as Type A5 and as Type C in the other districts. The infected animals were those which had not been vaccinated such as hogs, sheep and goats. Cattle over five months of age were being vaccinated in accordance with the law. To provide a safeguard against the introduction of hoof and mouth disease from the West, all cloven hoofed animals, except swine, within a 50 kilometer belt next to the border were to be vaccinated. The senior veterinary students from Leipzig and Berlin would be given four weeks' leave to help in the vaccination program.

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11. Riems was expected to produce 100,000 liters of hoof and mouth disease vaccine during 1954. This would meet the needs for the vaccination of an estimated 3 million cattle.

#### FOWL PEST

12. During the third quarter of 1953, 10,130 cases of fowl pest were reported and 31,033 fowl were emergency-slaughtered because of the disease. The Thamm memorandum (see para. 3) stated that fowl pest had decreased but that the importation of fowl during the Christmas season was causing anxiety because at that time the disease usually increased in incidence. The DDR veterinary authorities requested the Ministry of Internal and Export Trade to import only dressed poultry. However, the Ministry was of the opinion that such a request would not be received favorably by Poland.
13. The Thamm report stated that the production of poultry pest vaccine was expensive and was not progressing satisfactorily. For each 1,000 liters of vaccine produced 25,000 eggs had to be utilized and, due to production difficulties, one-fifth of the vaccine produced was ineffective and unusable. Sufficient vaccine was available for the inoculation of exhibition poultry and of poultry in the threatened areas.

#### RABIES

14. The Thamm report also stated that cases of rabies still existed in certain individual Kreis. Of the wild animals, foxes were the principal carriers of the disease. The organization parties, as required by the animal disease law, had been effective and he hoped that this large reservoir of rabies infection would be eliminated.

- 25X1 1. Comment. Possibly Dr. Thamm (see para. 3).
2. Comment. Possibly the DDR Minister of Agriculture and Forestry.
3. Comment. The VEG is a State-owned farm comparable to the Soviet sovkhos.
4. Comment. The LPG is a collective farm comparable to the Soviet kolkhoz.
5. Comment. Presumably slaughter of exposed animals on infected farms.
6. Comment. The VEG Mast is believed to be a large State-owned farm for the sole purpose of feeding and final fattening of hogs. The difference between the VEG Mast and a VEG feeding farm has not been clearly determined.
- 25X1 7. Comment. All paragraph references are to this report, not the original memorandum.

#### LIBRARY SUBJECT AND AREA CODES

2/9-02-0404		7/54	
648.239	4M/C	648.234	4M/C
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648.321	4M/C	648.242	4M/C
		8-11/712.72	4M/C

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 DATES FROM RELEASE IN THE THIRD QUARTER 1953

Attachment A

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Districts	Hoof and Mouth Disease								Hog Cholera			Swine Influenza			Foot Rot		
	Cattle Incl. calves				Swine				Sheep			Horses			Pigs		
	Sick	Killed	HS*	HS*	Sick	Killed	HS*	HS*	Sick	Killed	HS*	Sick	Killed	HS*	Sick	Killed	HS*
Rostock	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	181	-	922	24	-	87	440	-	3,274
Schwerin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	60	-	861	34	-	127	748	-	1,110
Neubrandenburg	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	187	-	1,776	322	-	165	3,906	-	5,985
Potsdam	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,048	-	9,572	395	-	221	1,001	-	3,595
Frankfurt	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	537	-	5,312	579	-	321	582	-	1,932
Cottbus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	447	-	5,624	1,098	-	470	357	-	1,083
Magdeburg	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	814	-	6,801	1,415	-	328	413	-	2,761
Halle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	327	-	4,319	303	-	226	5	-	71
Erfurt	-	-	1	2	5	-	-	-	145	-	1,602	263	-	116	53	-	171
Gera	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	-	156	76	-	105	2	-	8
Suhl	3	-	-	2	-	-	2	-	6	-	84	123	-	161	15	-	297
Dresden	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	423	-	779	316	-	318	913	-	4,798
Leipzig	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	99	-	1,815	252	-	153	1,390	-	5,600
Karl Marx Stadt	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	-	94	150	-	162	297	-	354
Sov. Sec. Berlin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	1,220	-	-	-	-	-	-

\* Emergency-slaughtered

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Attachment B

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## LOSSES FROM HOG CHOLERA FROM 28 NOVEMBER to 4 DECEMBER 1953

District	Total		State Feed- ing Farms		VEG Farms		LPG Farms		Farmers Enterprises	
	Sick	Killed	Sick	Killed	Sick	Killed	Sick	Killed	Sick	Killed
Rostock	29	178	-	-	-	-	-	3	29	175
Schwerin	33	510	-	-	-	-	6	105	27	405
Neubrandenburg	23	102	-	-	-	-	7	56	16	46
Potsdam	42	1,523	-	-	-	418	28	557	14	548
Frankfurt	168	375	-	-	150	223	6	107	12	45
Cottbus	3	60	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	60
Magdeburg	61	805	6	153	-	-	1	98	54	554
Halle	20	874	-	-	-	261	-	188	20	425
Erfurt	30	458	8	271	-	-	-	-	22	187
Gera	19	164	-	-	-	-	-	-	19	164
Subl	-	15	-	-	-	-	-	15	-	-
Dresden	22	326	-	-	1	125	12	135	9	66
Leipzig	2	67	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	67
Karl Marx Stadt	115	2,616*	115	2,350	-	-	-	-	-	66
Totals	567	8,093	129	3,774	151	1,027	60	1,264	227	2,808

Comments: 25X1A

\* Figure as given in original document; should be 2,416.

\*\* Figure as given in original document; should be 7,873.

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